Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakotans of all races and cultures are united by their desire to strengthen South Dakota for future generations, making it always a better place to live, to work, and to raise a family; and,

Whereas, It is vital to South Dakota's future that South Dakotans of all races unite with common goals and interests while celebrating our cultural diversity, treating all peoples with respect and honesty; and,

Whereas, Active engagement among races and cultures, education about the history and development of all cultures, and the promotion of South Dakota's diverse historical and cultural resources are important to a unified society; and,

Whereas, The disagreement and conflict that has existed for centuries between individuals of different races and cultures both in South Dakota and the world, can be overcome by people of good will of all races and cultures who share the goal of greater opportunities for future generations; and,

Whereas, Twenty years ago, at the suggestion of Native American and non-Native American leaders, Governor George S. Mickelson and the elected leaders of nine tribes joined together to proclaim a Year of Reconciliation which was observed by all South Dakotans and was an effort to improve understanding, cooperation, and peace among the races and cultures of South Dakota; and,

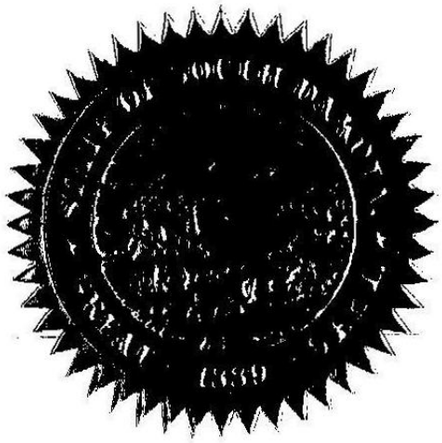
Whereas, It is timely and good to build upon the legacy and work of those leaders, who moved South Dakota forward through the Year of Reconciliation, by uniting to strengthen our common bonds as South Dakotans, working together to address common problems, and sharing a united vision of the future to move forward, in unity, as South Dakotans of all races and cultures; and,

Whereas, Observing a Year of Unity by efforts to promote racial and cultural education and understanding, promoting opportunities of tourism and economic development in all communities of South Dakota, and strengthening our ties and lines of respectful and productive communication can help bring further unity among all South Dakotans:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim 2010 as a

YEAR OF UNITY

in South Dakota, and call upon South Dakotans of all races and cultures to promote, celebrate, and understand the contributions of all races and cultures to South Dakota; to work together to further develop means for constructive and respectful dialogue; and unite around our common bond as South Dakotans while acknowledging and celebrating our racial and cultural diversity—all in an effort to further the shared goal of generations before us to improve opportunities for future generations of South Dakotans.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State